



## Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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## News Release

# Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

January 19, 2007 - 019

## Provincial Government Promotes Northern Products And Services At International Trade Show

Lumber And Building Supply Companies Showcase Their Products

THUNDER BAY – The Ontario government is helping to attract new investment to Northern Ontario by promoting the region's lumber and home building supply sector at a trade show in Minnesota, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"We recognize the importance of growing our export trade to support the development of a strong and sustainable economy in Northern Ontario," said Bartolucci. "International events such as this help to promote the fact that northern businesses and industries deliver services and manufacture products that are capable of competing in the global market."

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines is partnering with the Northwestern Ontario Development Network from Thunder Bay to showcase the products and services of a number of regional businesses at the Northwestern Building Products Expo in Bloomington, Minnesota, January 21-23. The show will feature hundreds of exhibitors and is expected to draw thousands of attendees.

"Trade shows provide an excellent opportunity for companies to generate interest and build awareness of northern building products businesses, meet potential partners, agents and distributors, and showcase what the North has to offer," said Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Bill Mauro. "This is just one way we are helping northern businesses to facilitate new trade partners and attract new investment to northern communities."

"Showcasing our products and services to American and other markets is essential to growing a competitive sector and creating jobs in our communities," said Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle. "I am pleased that our government continues to support Ontario's northwestern businesses through marketing and networking events like this one."

Investment messaging will be enhanced by Ontario's North marketing materials developed through the province's GO North Investor Program, a joint initiative of the ministries of Northern Development and Mines, Finance, and Economic Development and Trade, aimed at attracting anchor international investments to northern communities. It is part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan for building stronger northern communities. The Northern Prosperity Plan has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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